

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Boulder Point Lookout

Other names/site number: 24RA0173

Name of related multiple property listing:

L-4 Fire Lookouts in the USFS Northern Region (Region 1), 1932-1967 (amended)

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & number: \_\_\_\_\_

City or town: Darby State: Montana County: Ravalli

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☒

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national   X   statewide   X   local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

  X   A     B   X   C     D

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title :

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register  
☐ determined eligible for the National Register  
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register  
☐ removed from the National Register  
☐ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☐  
Public – Local ☐  
Public – State ☐  
Public – Federal ☒

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒  
District ☐  
Site ☐  
Structure ☐  
Object ☐

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>          </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government  
Other: fire lookout  
            
            
            
            
          

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant (not in use)

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: "Readicut" L-4 Lookout House

### Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: N/A

Walls: WOOD / Weatherboard; GLASS

Roof: WOOD / Shingle

Other: WOOD / Log (tower) CONCRETE (tower footings)

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

Boulder Point Lookout is an excellent example of the 1931-pattern L-4 Lookout House, originally designed by Clyde Fickes. It is located roughly two miles northwest of the West Fork Ranger Station—the administrative headquarters of the West Fork District. The only access to the lookout is from a two-mile-long pack trail. The lookout structure is located atop a narrow rocky prominence known as Boulder Point (elevation 7,753 ft.) on the ridge that extends southeastward from Boulder Peak, about two and a half miles to the northwest. This ridge line serves as the boundary of the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Area. Boulder Point itself is a rocky prominence, with a nearly vertical drop-off on its north side into the Boulder Creek drainage. Vegetation in and around the lookout consists of mixed stands of Douglas fir, subalpine fir, and lodge pole pine. The lookout commands a view of the Boulder Creek drainage to the north (including the south side of Trapper Peak) and the Nez Perce / West Fork Bitterroot River confluence to the south.

The property possesses integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, design, feeling and association. The lookout itself is in good to fair condition, with a few missing/damaged glass panes in its west wall windows and openings. While the shutters have been removed from some of the windows (the west wall and half of the north wall), they remain on site. Besides the lookout, the site area contains a wood frame outhouse, in fair condition. The outhouse door has been repaired with plywood.

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## Narrative Description

The Boulder Point Lookout is a 14 ft. by 14 ft. wood frame building with a pyramidal roof built atop a 10 foot-high, log tower. Simple drop wood siding covers the lower portion of the exterior walls, and the roof is covered with sawn cedar shingles with metal ridge caps. A new stainless steel stove pipe extends above the north slope of the roof. The entry into the lookout house is located at the north end of the east wall, and contains its original six-light wood door; a board-and-batten storm door has been added over the door. Four nine-light windows are located in the wall south of the entry. The remaining three walls each contain five, nine-light, wood windows, two of which slide sideways allowing ventilation. Several panes of glass are missing from the west wall windows—the openings filled with cardboard and/or wood. The window shutters on the west wall and the east half of the north wall have been removed, but remain on site. The struts to hold the shutters remain fixed to the lower rail in the catwalk safety railing. The building retains its lightning protection.

The four legs of the cross-braced tower have cast-in-place concrete footings. A single-flight stairway leads from the northwest corner of the tower base to the catwalk. The trapdoor that would have originally been lowered to secure the tower is missing. The stairs have log stringers and board treads.

In the one-room interior, the original maple floor is intact and in fair condition. The space is fitted with a small wood-burning stove, a platform bed with drawers beneath for storage, and several tables, storage benches, and a wood box.

The outhouse is located about 200 feet east of the lookout. This one-story front-gable building measures 3.5 ft. by 4 ft. Stones are piled around the base of the building, which is also guy-wired to the ground. The exterior walls are covered with simple drop wood siding with vertical corner board trim and a diagonal brace on the rear (north) wall. The wood shingle roof appears to be new. The front (south) wall has a five-panel wood door. Although the door appears to be original, its original wood panels have been replaced with plywood.

## Integrity

The Boulder Point Lookout retains all seven aspects of historical integrity. The lookout is in its original location, in a remote area only accessible by trail. Its remoteness in turn contributes to its exceptional integrity of setting, feeling and association. With few exceptions, the lookout and its associated outhouse retain integrity of materials, workmanship and design. The lookout stands as an exceptional example of the once-common 1931-pattern L-4 Lookouts once included in the Bitterroot National Forest's fire detection system.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Politics / Government

Conservation

Engineering

Architecture

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**Period of Significance**

1937- 1967

**Significant Dates**

1937 (year built)

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Clyde Fickes (designer)

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Boulder Point Lookout is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C, at the local and state level of significance. Under Criterion A, it is significantly associated with the US Forest Service's early fire detection program, which relied on a series of fixed lookout points from which to locate forest fires. Under Criterion C, Boulder Point Lookout is an excellent example of a 1931-pattern L-4 Lookout House.

The Boulder Point Lookout meets the Registration Requirements set forth in the *L-4 Fire Lookouts in the USFS Northern Region (Region 1), 1932-1967 Multiple Property Document (Amended)* and the associated context *L-4 Lookouts on the Bitterroot National Forest*. The period of significance identified for L-4 lookouts in the Bitterroot National Forest begins in 1937 and ends in 1967, within the defined period of significance of the MPD cover document.

Boulder Point Lookout was added to the West Fork District's presuppression program in 1937. It appears to have functioned principally as a secondary or emergency lookout point, i.e., operated during critical fire seasons from its construction in 1937 through the end of the period of significance (1967).

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The West Fork District of the Bitterroot National Forest added Boulder Point Lookout to its system of fixed fire detection points in 1937. Earlier that year, the district counted seven primary lookout points and three secondary or emergency points in its system.<sup>1</sup> Elers Koch's reference to a lookout tower under construction on the West Fork District during the summer of 1937 likely refers to Boulder Point Lookout, making it the eleventh manned lookout point in the district. Although it has been suggested that CCC crews built Boulder Point Lookout, that task probably fell to district employees.<sup>2</sup>

During the 1950s lookout replacement program, the forest conducted an inspection of Boulder Point Lookout—a prerequisite consideration to obtaining a new lookout structure. The inspection form indicates that the forest used it as an "emergency" or secondary lookout, i.e., it was occupied only during extreme fire seasons. While only a secondary lookout point, the location was important enough for the district to investigate the possibility of replacing the 1937 structure with a new one.<sup>3</sup> However, as it functioned as a secondary lookout point, Boulder Point failed to rise far enough up the priority list for replacement. However, the district continued to use it during emergency fire seasons through the early 1980s.<sup>4</sup>

Between 2005 and 2007, volunteers from the West Fork Ski Club and forest employees stabilized the lookout. Work included replacing the tower cross beams and legs, re-shingling the roof, repairing and painting the shutters, and installing a new stove pipe.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Elers Koch, Assistant Regional Forester, "August 19, 1937 Memorandum for Supervisor and Regional Office D (s) Supervision – Bitterroot Inspection." Folder Bitterroot National Forest Inspection Reports, 1938-1935, 1 of 3, Box 2 Bitterroot – Cabinet, RG 95 Regional Office Inspection Reports 1906-1938, NARA, Seattle.

<sup>2</sup> In September of 1937, Regional Forest Evan Kelley suggested to the Bitterroot Forest Supervisor that CCC crews could be used to help the forest catch up with lookout improvement work, indicating that the forest had yet to take advantage of the labor and money available through the New Deal programs. Evan Kelley to Bitterroot Forest Supervisor, G. M. Brandborg, September 29, 1937. Folder Bitterroot National Forest Inspection Reports, 1938-1935, 1 of 3, Box 2 Bitterroot – Cabinet, RG 95 Regional Office Inspection Reports 1906-1938, NARA, Seattle.

<sup>3</sup> Undated Structural Assessment Form for Boulder Point Lookout. Folder E- Improvements – Bitterroot 1957 Lookout Replacement, Box 6, RG 95 Records of the Forest Service Bitterroot National Forest Forest Supervisor's Files Alpha Files E –Improvements, NARA Seattle.

<sup>4</sup> It is included in a 1967 list of sixteen lookouts in use forest-wide. "List of Lookouts in Region 1," 1967. Folder 5100 Lookouts Historical 2 of 2, Box 45, RG 95 Records of the Forest Service Region 1, Missoula, Montana Historical Collection 1903-1990, NARA Seattle.

<sup>5</sup> "Group Rescuing Old Fire Lookout." *Billing Gazette*, August 12, 2006.



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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Kresek, Ray  
1984 *Fire Lookouts of the Northwest*. Fairfield Washington: Ye Galleon Press.

RG 95 Records of the US Forest Service, National Archives and Records Administration,  
Seattle, Washington.

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### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository: National Archives & Records Administration, Seattle, WA

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** 24RA0173

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** about one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: - \_\_\_\_\_

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 11 Easting: 710524.87 Northing: 5079600

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of this property is an arbitrary line drawn to encompass the top of the rocky knob containing the lookout and its associated outhouse, roughly corresponding to the 7720' contour interval.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encloses the primary improvements at this location, which include the lookout and associated outhouse.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Janene Caywood  
organization: CRCS  
street & number: 1002 South 6<sup>th</sup> St. West  
city or town: Missoula state: MT zip code: 59801  
e-mail: [crs@montana.com](mailto:crs@montana.com)  
telephone: 406 728-9190  
date: July 31, 2017

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### **Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

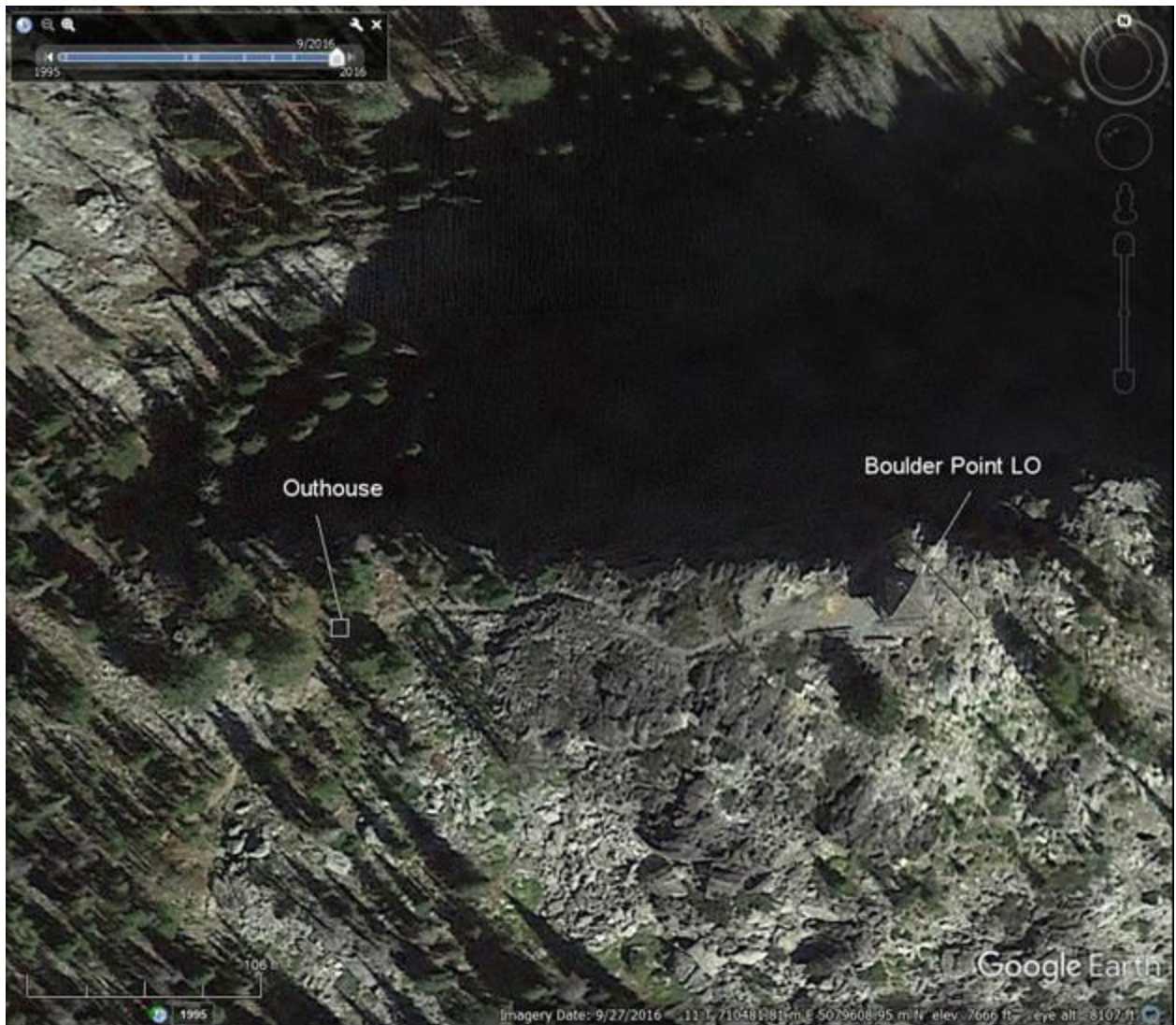
- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)





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2016 Google Earth aerial photograph of the Boulder Point Lookout site.

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### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600 x 1200 pixels (minimum), 3000 x 2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

#### All Photographs

Name of Property: Boulder Point Lookout

City or Vicinity: Darby vicinity

County: Ravalli

State: Montana

Photographer: Janene Caywood

Date Photographed: July 28, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of \_\_\_\_.

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MT\_RavalliCounty\_BoulderPointLookout\_0001. Looking east to the west wall of the lookout.

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MT\_RavalliCounty\_BoulderPointLookout\_0002. Looking west to the east (front) wall of the lookout.



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MT\_RavalliCounty\_BoulderPointLookout\_0003. Looking north along the west side of the catwalk over the Boulder Creek Drainage to Trapper Peak.

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MT\_RavalliCounty\_BoulderPointLookout\_0004. Detail of 2007 concrete footing work done by volunteers.

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MT\_RavalliCounty\_BoulderPointLookout\_0005. Interior view of the cab. Note the original door at the north end of the east wall.



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MT\_RavalliCounty\_BoulderPointLookout\_0006. Looking northeast to the west and south (front) walls of the outhouse.

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MT\_RavalliCounty\_BoulderPointLookout\_0007. Looking southwest to the east and north (rear) wall of the outhouse

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.